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Letter dated 26 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the decision of the illegal judicial authority of the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea to ban the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people (see annex).*

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the decision of the illegal judicial authority of the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea to ban the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people

Kyiv, 26 April 2016

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest over the so-called "decision" of the illegal judicial authority of the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea to ban the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people by declaring it an extremist organization.

The ban on the Mejlis, a key representative body of the Crimean Tatar people, which acts on the basis of the principle of non-violence, has become yet another flagrant violation by the occupying authorities of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

This unprecedented repressive decision represents clear-cut evidence of systematic persecution of the Crimean Tatars owing to their firm position regarding the illegal occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

Ukraine strongly urges the occupying State to reverse immediately this null and void decision and stop oppressing the Crimean Tatar community in the occupied Crimea.

This situation once again demonstrates the urgent need to step up the international community's efforts to protect human rights in the occupied Crimea and to safeguard the unfettered access of international human rights organizations to monitor the human rights situation on the ground.

Halting the systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the occupied Crimea, as well as repression and intimidation, is possible only by making the occupying State stop its aggression against Ukraine and strictly comply with international law and its international legal obligations. In this regard, Ukraine calls upon its partners, first of all the key guarantors of its security under the Budapest Memorandum, to intensify the efforts to establish an international mechanism for the de-occupation of Crimea.